Government in consultation with RBI & IBA has framed a comprehensive educational loan scheme to ensure that no deserving student in the country is deprived of higher education for want of finances. Under the revised model educational loans scheme (August 31, 2004) the simplified procedure/criteria are as under:

Security:

Educational Loan up to Rs. 4 lakh: No Security.

Above Rs. 4 lakh and up to Rs. 7.5 lakh: Collateral in the form of a suitable third party guarantee. The bank may, at its discretion, waive third party guarntee if satisfied with the networth/means of parents who would be executing the document as "joint borrower".

Above Rs. 7.5 lakh: Collateral security of suitable value or suitable third party guarantee alongwith the assignment of future income of the student for payment of instalments.

Margin: No collateral or margin required for loans up to Rs. 4 lakh.

Interest: Interest not to exceed PLR for loans up to Rs. 4 lakh and PLR+1% for loans above Rs. 4 lakh.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Provision of easy loans to farmers in Uttaranchal

2151. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the farmers in Uttaranchal have to face many difficulties in getting loans from the banks;

(b) whether Government propose to issue guidelines to provide loan to the farmers in the State, especially in the hilly and far flung areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Farmers in hilly areas including Uttaranchal, sometime face difficulty in availing loans in time because of the hilly terrain and location of branches.

(b) and (c) In all State Level Bankers' Committee meetings and other fora in Uttaranchal State, the Banks are being impressed to enhance lending to farmers in hill areas. The farm credit package announced by the Government of India, on 18th June 2004, has resulted in increased credit flow to agriculture and allied sectors in Uttaranchal State from Rs. 425.89 crore in 2003-04 to Rs. 643.64 crore in 2004-05, registering an increase of more than 51%.

Requirement of examinations for aspirants of Customs House Agents

2152. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the aspirants of Customs House Agents Licenses are required to appear for further examinations by other customs stations despite having already qualified the required examinations stipulated under Regulations-8 of CHA-Licensing Regulations 2004 at a different Customs House earlier; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor since a CHA-License issued at any Customs House in the country is valid for functioning at all the customs stations across the country on a simple intimation in Form-C at the respective customs stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir. Proviso to Regulation 8(1) of Customs House Agents Licensing Regulation 2004 clearly provides that an applicant who has already passed the examination referred to in regulation 8 will not be required to appear for any further examination.

(b) Nil, in view of reply above.

Elimination of revenue deficit

2153. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to eliminate revenue deficit by March, 2009 as mandated by Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003;